

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 091024

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

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1. WORD GETS AROUND THAT ETHIOPIAN JETS SET

AMBASSADOR BREWER INFORMED SUDANESE PRESIDENT NIMEIRI APRIL
14 OF THE DELIVERY OF EIGHT F-5E'S TO ETHIOPIA WITHIN THE
NEXT FEW DAYS. IN RESPONSE, NIMEIRI:

--COMPLAINED ABOUT THE TIMING, BUT DID NOT PRESS FOR
DELAY OF THE DELIVERY;

--OBSERVED THAT THE NEW PLANES WOULD NO DOUBT BE USED
AGAINST THE ERITREANS;

--SAW JUSTIFICATION FOR THE DELIVERY IN TERMS OF AREA
CONSIDERATIONS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 091024

MEANWHILE, EMBASSY MOGADISCIO OBTAINED A REPORT GIVEN TO

THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT BY A DEFECTOR FROM THE ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE. THE REPORT CLAIMS THAT THE US WILL DELIVER SIXTEEN F-5E'S TO THE ETHIOPIANS "IN THE EARLY PART OF 1976."
(SECRET) MOGADISCIO 640 AND KHARTOUM 1071, 4/14.)

2. JAPAN FORESEES MORE OF THE SAME IN CHINA

IN THE VIEW OF THE JAPANESE FOREIGN OFFICE HUA KUO-FENG WILL HAVE TO PROVE HIMSELF DURING A CONTINUING POWER STRUGGLE. ACCORDING TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE:

--THE MODERATES ARE STRONGER BUT LESS UNITED THAN THE RADICALS;

--THERE WILL BE ATTEMPTS BY THE RADICALS TO BUILD THEIR STRENGTH IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THE ARMY, ORGANIZATIONS IN WHICH THEY REMAIN VERY WEAK;

--THE POLITICAL TURMOIL WILL NOT AFFECT TRADE WITH JAPAN, AND RECENT DISRUPTIONS IN NEGOTIATIONS ON OIL AND STEEL ARE NOT DUE TO THE ANTI-CAPITALIST CAMPAIGN.

EMBASSY COMMENT: OTHER DIPLOMATS HERE ARE EVEN MORE RELUCTANT THAN THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO OFFER PREDICTIONS ABOUT HUA'S DURABILITY. THE BRITISH AND AUSTRALIANS SPECULATE THAT HE ASSUMED THE POST ONLY AFTER CHANG CHUN CH'IAO, RELUCTANT TO STICK HIS NECK OUT IN SUCH TREACHEROUS TIMES, REFUSED. THE IMPLICATION IS THAT PEOPLE MORE POWERFUL THAN HUA ARE LYING LOW UNTIL THE SITUATION CALMS AND THAT THEY WILL DISPENSE WITH THE NEW PREMIER WHEN IT SUITS THEM.
(CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 5518, 4/14.)

3. RIFA'I SHOOT'S DOWN HAWK

IN AN APRIL 14 INTERVIEW IN THE LONDON TIMES JORDANIAN PRIME MINISTER RIFA'I ANNOUNCED THAT JORDAN WILL TURN TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. RIFA'I CLAIMED THAT:

--BY THE TIME CONGRESS FINALLY APPROVED THE HAWK AIR
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 091024

DEFENSE DEAL, THE PRICE WAS TWICE THE AMOUNT SAUDI ARABIA HAD AGREED TO PROVIDE.

--ONLY THE USSR CAN SUPPLY A SYSTEM AT MODERATE PRICES WITH AN ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY SCHEDULE.

--JORDAN EXPECTS TO PAY BETWEEN \$10 AND \$12 MILLION IN DAMAGES FOR WORK ALREADY STARTED ON THE US-MANUFAC-

TURED SYSTEM.

--THE ARRANGEMENTS TO BUY THE US SYSTEM WILL LAPSE
AUTOMATICALLY AT THE END OF THIS MONTH. (LIMITED
OFFICIAL USE) LONDON 5788, 4/14.) KISSINGER

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